

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 5 November 2006

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. This broadcast can also be heard on Echolink by connecting to ZS6FCS or to www.zs6mrk.org and following the indicated links. This, and previous bulletins, can be downloaded from the web site of the SARL i.e. www.sarl.org.za. You can read or download previous bulletins from there and subscribe to receive future bulletins by email.

This transmission is by Hans, ZS6KR, on 145,725 and 7,066 MHz from Pretoria with a relay on 3 695 kHz. (Other newsreaders please change to suit).

SILENT KEY

It is with regret that the Free State Amateur Radio Club announces the passing of Tynie Snyman, ZS6OC. Tynie was for many years a member of the club management and will be missed on the air. Our sincerest condolences go to his family and friends.

(Pause)

In the news today:

RADIO AMATEURS IMPRESSED NASA

HAMNET SHOWS ITS MUSCLE IN JOINT EXERCISE WITH WSAR

You are listening to ZS6SRL. Stay tuned for more detail on these and other important and interesting news items.

RADIO AMATEURS IMPRESSED NASA

When Russian flight controllers encountered difficulties during a recent International Space Station cargo rocket docking, NASA called on a special – although little-known – Amateur Radio team to stand by if needed. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) Ops Team “ISS Ham Contingency Network” volunteers around the world immediately swung into action. Within 15 minutes of receiving the call from Johnson Space Centre, Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, reported the ISS Ham Contingency Network was ready to provide any necessary communication support.

During the October 26 Progress docking, NASA says, Russian flight controllers were unable to confirm whether an automated antenna on the rocket had retracted as commanded. If still extended, the antenna could interfere with the final latching of the supply ship to the ISS. To avoid disturbing the softly docked cargo ship and to aid the crew with docking manoeuvres, the ISS orientation was allowed to drift freely.

During free-drift mode, however, the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS) – which handles communication between the crew and Mission Control in Houston – can be lost.

Awakened at 02:00, ARISS Australian team member Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, put out a blind call on VHF to the ISS crew, although no answer was needed at that point. Others available to cover later passes included Gerald Klatzko, ZS6BTD, in South Africa; and other team members in Europe and the USA. Each of these Earth stations has a track record of being able to sustain reliable communication with the ISS.

Listen to a full report on ARMI later today.

HAMNET SHOWS ITS MUSCLE IN JOINT EXERCISE WITH WSAR

A combined Hamnet team from Cape Town, West Coast and the Winelands showed their muscle in a joint rescue and communication exercise under command of Wilderness Search and Rescue (WSAR) over the weekend of 27/29 October.

Hamnet member Christi van Zyl, ZR1CVZ, offered his farm for the exercise. A group of 18 HAMNET members deployed and established repeater and simplex communications for the exercise, including a VHF/UHF link which provided excellent penetrative communications into the winding kloof. Included in the arsenal of equipment, was a complete HF station, as well as a Pactor 3 HF email system which was used to update strategic persons on the progress and achievements.

Saturday was set aside for lectures and testing equipment, while Sunday was used to plan and execute a mock rescue of an elderly gentleman who went missing in one of the kloofs. At first light two mountain rescue teams, including two HAMNET members per team, were deployed to conduct the search mission.

Despite the radio unfriendly terrain, communication was maintained either by repeater or via the VHF/UHF link. Feedback from the rescue teams and Incident Commanders was extremely positive.

HAMNET teams also provided logistical support in the form of driving the rescuers by 4x4 from the base to the rescue staging site.

Metro Emergency Medical Services provided an Incident Command bus which had VHF, UHF, Airband and Tetra radio equipment, conference facilities, sleeping place for their operators, a kitchen and a generator for backup power. A small team consisting of an Incident Commander, Planner, Operations, Logistical and Admin personnel executed the rescue plan, with HAMNET members logging, operating the radios, as well as manning the logistics and planning positions.

“In general, we learnt an enormous amount of how rescues and searches are planned and conducted, as well as how to plan and execute effective radio communications in a short space of time,” Pierre Tromp, ZS1HF, Hamnet Coordi-

nator for the Western Cape said. “Our team gelled and worked extremely well together.”

The South African Amateur Radio Development Trust earlier this year awarded the Siemens Radio Amateur of the Year Award to Pierre for his support of proactive Hamnet activity.

DO YOU HAVE EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD BE OF VALUE TO GROW AMATEUR RADIO IN SOUTH AFRICA? TWO RADIO AMATEURS HAVE SAID YES!

Two Radio Amateurs responded to last week’s comment that we were not joking and that we are serious about looking for Councillors who can bring their experience to promote and develop amateur radio. 15 Nominations are required for the new council, which will be elected at the AGM on 14 April 2007. While most of the existing Council members will be available for re-election, there are still many vacancies to be filled.

Nominations for Council close at the end of November. Ask a fellow amateur to nominate you or send an Email to Henry Chamberlain, the SARL Secretary, with the details of what you believe you can do for amateur radio. His email address is secretary@sarl.org.za.

ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The annual remembrance day service in honour of radio amateurs who lost their lives in wars, will this year not be broadcast by the SABC but it will be undertaken by the amateur radio service itself. It will be included in the ARMI program of Sunday 12 November and will be broadcast at 11:45. The service will be undertaken by Rev. Hannes Enslin, ZS6JDE.

CONTEST NEWS

80 m QSO PARTY RESULTS

The contest committee received 16 logs for the second leg of the SARL 80 Metre QSO Party held in October. The full results will be published in the next issue of HF Happenings.

Jan, ZS4JAN, took top honours with 695 points, followed by the East Rand ARC, ZS6ERB, with 660 points and Ian, ZS5IAN, in third place with 620 points.

In the combined results for both legs, the top spot goes to Jan, ZS4JAN, with 1 458 points, followed by the East Rand ARC, ZS6ERB, with 1 400 points and Ian, ZS5IAN, with 1 250 points. Well done!

SARL HF FIELD DAY

The second leg of the SARL HF Field Day will be run from 10:00 UTC on Saturday 18 November to 10:00 UTC on Sunday 19 November. CW and Phone may be used on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres. The exchange is a RS or RST report and the letter “S” for single operator, “M” for multi-operator or

“G” for all single or multi-operator station that do not conform to field-station requirements. Power output is QRP (5 watt or less), low power (6 - 50 watt) or high power (51 - 100 watt).

The Port Elizabeth ARS are planning to have three multi-operator stations active, the Sasolburg ARC will be active from the Doornkloof Voortrekker farm, the East Rand ARC will be active from the Free State side of the Vaal Dam, the Hibiscus Coast ARC will be on the air from Ramsgate and the Bloemfontein RAC will also have a station on the air.

The closing date for log submissions is Monday 4 December 2006.

PEARS HF QSO PARTY

The annual PEARS HF QSO Party will be run over the weekend of 9 and 10 December with phone activity on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres.

The rules for both contests is available in the 2006 Contest Manual and will be published in HF Happenings.

FREE STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEW MANAGEMENT

Chairman: Charl Brittz ZS4ATZ; Vice chairman: At van der Walt ZS4VS; Secretary: Hannelie de Bruin ZS4HM; Harrismith: Badie Badenhorst ZS4PA; Goldfields: Kobus Breytenbach ZS4DD.

ZS6PTA FLEA MARKET

The Pretoria amateur radio club will hold its summer flea market on Saturday 11 November 2006. The flea market is at the usual place at the South-Campus of the University of Pretoria, at the corner of Lynwood Road and University street. The starting time is 08:00.

Everyone is welcome. Phone Almero, ZR6LDP, on (H)(012) 567 3722 or 082 908 3359 if you want to book a table or if you need directions to the flea market.

HF PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at very low to low levels. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to unsettled levels on 9 till 11 November. The expected Effective Sun Spot number for the coming week will be less than 15.

20 m and 40 m will provide best opportunities for DX. There is a possibility of brief 20 and 15 m openings towards the East from about 08:00 CAT. From about 16:00, 15 and 20 m may open towards Europe. From 19:00, 15, 20 and 80 m may open to the USA.

For the CW and digital enthusiasts it may also be worth monitoring 10 MHz.

Please visit www.spaceweather.co.za for further information.

DIARY OF EVENTS

11 November - ZS6PTA Flea market; 12 November - Remembrance day service included in ARMI program; 30 November - Closing date for submission of nominations for Council Members, SARL awards and motions for next year's AGM.

SARL News depends on clubs and individuals for news items of importance and interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution will reach the SARL News team, is to place it in www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It will be appreciated if you will do it in both Afrikaans and English.

The SARL also invites all listeners to listen to the program Amateur Radio Mirror International this Sunday morning at 10:00 CAT on 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area with relays on 7 082, 7 205 and 17 695 kHz. Audio is also streamed on www.zs6mrk.org and on Echolink from ZS6FCS as for this bulletin. A repeat transmission takes place on Mondays at 21:00 on 3 215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor the ARMI transmissions on the non-amateur frequencies.

You have been listening to a news bulletin by the South African Radio League, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN.

A prosperous week to all, 73.

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